

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- February 3 - Newcomers Class begins
- February 5 - Lifeline Screening in CLC
- February 10 - Scout Sunday
- February 13 - Ash Wednesday
- February 14 - Sweetheart Dinner, Abigail Circle
- February 17 - Ad Council
- February 19 - Tabitha Circle, Ruth Circle
- February 22 - D-Now
- February 23 - D-Now
- February 23 - Blue/Gold Banquet
- February 24 - D-Now

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 – Palm/Passion Sunday 8:20 and 10:45 presentation by Sanctuary Choir
Palm processional by the children in all 3 services

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 – No regular activities

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 – Supper at 5pm in the CLC, Maundy Thursday service at 6pm in Sanctuary

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 – Good Friday service at 6pm in the Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 – Flowering of the Cross at 6pm outside Wesley Center

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 – Easter Sunday 8:20, 10:45, and 11:00

February Special Worship Service

Christmas, Epiphany, LENT - ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 6 pm, February 13

It seems like we just had a Christmas Eve service, and the Baptism of the Lord service but here we are almost to the season of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. The date of Ash Wednesday changes because the date of Easter changes each year. Ash Wednesday falls 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays). This year Ash Wednesday is February 13.

Lent is a time of preparation when Christians observe a period of repentance, moderation, and fasting as a part of their spiritual discipline. Individuals choose how they will observe this season. Some people take some kind of pleasure away such as resisting the temptation of eating chocolate, drinking soft drinks, playing video games or some other pleasure. Often people replace that time with another activity such as additional Bible readings, writing notes of encouragement, participating in mission projects or other activity.

How will you spend your Lenten season? For starters, you can worship at St. Mark's at 6pm on Ash Wednesday. There will be a service of reflection, contemplation, scripture and music. This will include the imposition of ashes on the forehead of the worshipers. You will have the opportunity to reflect on Jesus' life and also your own.

Come and be blessed by the power of the Holy Spirit in this time of meditation, reflection and spiritual renewal.

In Christ
Sandra



SWEETHEART DINNER
THURS., FEB. 14
6:30 PM @ CLC
\$35 PER COUPLE

Celebrate with your sweetheart! Enjoy a fabulous dinner, quality service, and unforgettable entertainment!

(Childcare provided - \$5.00 per child - pizza dinner included)

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH!
Contact Jeanne Chapman for more information.

Sponsored by the St. Mark's Youth Ministry



Saint Mark's United Methodist Church
400 Grant's Ferry Road
Brandon, MS 39047

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Saint Mark's United Methodist Church

Phone: 601-992-2131

Church Staff:

- Rob Gill, Senior Pastor.....x103
- Jeff Nesbit, Teaching Pastor.....x105
- Sandra Thomas, Minister of Worship & Music.....x104
- Gary Cazier, Director of Nurture/Outreach.....x109
- Jeanne Chapman, Youth Director.....601-992-9554
- Jim Readell, Church Facilities Manager.....601-506-4714
- Delores Seward, Administrative Assistant.....x101
- Martha Toombs, Business Office.....x106
- Corrine Carpenter, Preschool Office.....x110
- Darlene Baker.....Pianist
- Jason Boyd.....Organist
- David Potvin.....11th Hour Worship Leader
- Robert Ghoston.....Custodian

Check the church website or Sunday bulletin for times of events and further information. See the bulletin for all on the caring list.

Worship is each Sunday at 8:20, 10:45 and 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m.

www.saintmarksum.org



the BEACON

Shining Christ's light into the community



Feb. 2013 • Number 78



"Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other". 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

There is no one I honor more than Jesus Christ. The God-Man is my Leader. His life and work has my utmost respect and fear.

With that being said, I want to honor and appreciate all the leaders who serve Jesus Christ at Saint Mark's, but specifically, with this article, I want to honor those who have served or currently serve the 11th Hour ministry.

Leslie McGinnis is our 11th Hour lay leader. Melissa Bolland leads our set up team, which entails computer, sound/lights, and overall set up. Melissa Rowe coordinates our 11th Hour Children's Church ministry. Amanda Fontaine leads our greeter team and Communion Servers. Barbara Meeks oversees our golf cart ministry team. Angie Adair and the Mosaic Sunday school class prepares coffee each Sunday for the 11th Hour. Elizabeth Kean has offered her artistic leadership, providing 6 banners for the worship area. Shane Noe and Kyle Morgan provided their carpentry leadership, proving kneeling alters for times of praying, praise, and confession. Shane has also blessed us in building a sound board box with locks. Kirby Lewis, his wife, Wendy, and their son, Christopher, have been very instrumental serving in all ways 11th Hour.

The praise team and their leadership has been a gift of God. Our guitarists, Eric Carpenter, Richard Hartung, and Brian Adair give so much to make the gospel known through their music. Our drummer, Brad McGee, our keyboard player, Jo Hebert, our vocalists, Chad Thompson, Kevin Keeton, Nancy Keeton, Kim Walden, and Kayla Stover have invested their lives to make God's praises known through song. David Porvin, who has been our worship leader has humbly and graciously given himself to Jesus and to the 11th Hour faith family. David has recently stepped down as our worship leader and will be greatly missed on the stage. We appreciate him and his entire family for their service. The Holy Spirit has been so good to David and His leadership, that through him, God has paved the way to our new worship leader, Drew Herring.

Drew comes to us from Morton, MS. He is a graduate of Belmont University in Nashville, TN. As a gifted vocalist, song writer, and keyboard player, Drew hungers to sing the gospel. We welcome our newest leader with praise.

So many people, through God's wonderful and never ending grace, have poured into the 11th hour at Saint Mark's. I tremble with humility concerning the responsibility of leading such amazing people under the Headship of such an amazing King, Jesus Christ. If only this article had room to honor all of you who serve in leadership at Saint Mark's! Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, in the grace of 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, I honor your leadership in the Lord's work!

Jeff Nesbit

Rob's Remarks



I want to invite you to participate in an experience on Sunday mornings during the season of Lent, which begins February 17th. The experience is called "24 Hours That Changed The World". Via DVD, this series will take us through the events of Jesus' last day. It begins with the Passover Feast and follows through to his crucifixion and resurrection. Every Sunday school class is asked to consider this as an option and strongly encouraged to participate. The experience will be offered in the sanctuary and will begin promptly at 9:45. Class attendance, fellowship and prayer concerns are to be completed before 9:45. Each Sunday there will be a teacher to facilitate the learning and follow up to Rev. Hamilton's video presentation. The youth of our church have the same opportunity to experience the series as well.

I want to take this time to ask any of you who have not made Sunday school a part of your morning ritual to consider a special invitation to join us for spiritual enrichment during the holy season of Lent which begins on Wednesday, February 13, at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary with a service of the imposition of ashes. I hope you will strongly consider attending this series on Sunday mornings.

This is a great opportunity to learn and be informed about the history and faith of Jesus and his relationship to the Father. Surely you can appreciate this chance to grow in your understanding about the drama and passion of those final hours of Jesus' life that forever changed the history of the world.

Grace and Peace,
Rob

Children's Corner

Wednesday schedule for children

- 4:00 pm Methodist Melodies led by Currie Gill and Martha Toombs
- 6:00 pm Faith Weavers led by Shane and Jennye Case
- 6:00 pm Cherub choir led by Cat Foster, Keri Richardson, Christa Payne and Vavra Curran

Camp Wesley Pines

Don't forget the Early Bird Discounts!! Register early and save money!!

2013 CAMP DATES

Younger Elementary camps (for children entering grades 1 - 3)

- June 17 - 19 (Monday - Wednesday) - \$120.00 (half due with registration)
- July 19 - 21 (Friday - Sunday) - \$120.00 (half due with registration)

Older Elementary camps (for youth entering grades 4 - 6, not over age 12)
\$290.00 (half due with registration)

- June 3 - 7
- June 24 - 28
- July 8 - 12
- July 22 - 26

Group
KINGDOM
ROCK
Where Kids Stand Strong for God

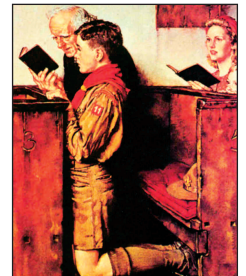
Upcoming Vacation Bible School – June 9-13, 2013

“A Scout is Reverent”

Scout Sunday is February 10, and will be recognized during the 10:45 traditional service. The Boys Scout Troop, Girl Scout Troops, and Cub Scout Pack of Saint Marks will present Service that morning.

Young, old, current, and former Boy and Girl Scouts please wear your uniforms to Saint Marks for the service!

“Our objective in the Scouting movement is to give such help as we can in bringing about God’s Kingdom on earth by including among youth the spirit and the daily practice in their lives of unselfish goodwill and cooperation” - Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement.



St. Mark's Relay For Life Team....NEEDS YOU

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's (ACS) signature event. It offers everyone in the community a chance to participate in the fight against cancer. This year the Relay will be held on the football field at Northwest Rankin High School on Friday, April 26, at 6:00 p.m. Teams of people set up tents and take turns walking laps around the track – one member from each team is supposed to be walking on the track at all times.

Everyone's reason to Relay is unique. At Relay, you can find healing, comfort, and support from others who have faced cancer or who have lost a loved one to the disease. You have a chance to meet people in the community who are equally as passionate about find-

ing answer to cancer. Relay night begins with a Survivor Walk around the track and then a Caregiver Walk. We will also have torches and luminaries that can be purchased to honor or memorialize a loved one, family member, friend, etc. Following the opening ceremony, these torches and luminaries will be lit as the names of those being honored and memorialized are read one at a time. It is a very moving ceremony!!

This year Ellen Jackson has agreed to lead our Relay For Life Team, but she needs your help!! St. Mark's has raised around \$5,000+ for the last few years and has been a premier team for the Northwest Rankin Relay planning committee. This year we would like to

surpass the amount we have previously raised.

We will be having a fundraiser prior to the Relay If you would like to help with the fundraiser, please contact Ellen Jackson at ellenpenny1@aol.com. If you cannot help with the fundraiser, please consider joining the St. Mark's team. You can join the team by going to Relay For Life Rankin-Northwest and signing up under the St. Mark's team. You can participate on the team as little or as much as you want.

Please come out to the Northwest Rankin football field on the night of Relay – walk a lap, visit, and help us to fight back.

Jeanne's 2 Sense



jeanne@saintmarksum.org

"Wash me and I will be whiter than snow." PSALM 51:7B

Jeanne Chapman

Our youth had the opportunity to go snow skiing just a few weeks ago. For some of our students it was the first time they saw snow and had the chance to ski. I admit there are times when I long to look out my window here in MS and see snow falling slowly to the ground. It doesn't happen much here, but if you've never experienced snow, it really can be beautiful. Move past the cold, the shoveling, the driving in it, the mess to vehicles, the flight cancellations, and look again. Take note of how the familiar becomes fantastic; the routine becomes radiant, and the everyday becomes extraordinary. Snow catapults everyday objects and sites into spectacular displays of beauty. From a bare, naked branch of a tree in the yard to the BBQ grill on the back porch. Everything takes on a new look and

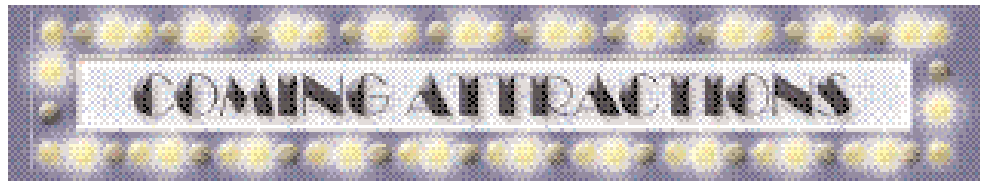
dimension. Snow covers the grime, the dirt, and yes, even the dog mess, and brings beauty to the mundane. However, the best attribute of snow is the brilliance and radiance that bounces off of it when the sun spreads its rays across it. The brightness that is reflected causes eyes to squint, eyes to water and sunglasses to take their spot on the bridge of the nose. And every so often when the sun catches it just right, yards and ponds and everything the sun touches are scattered with "diamonds".

For those who have experienced a fresh snowfall, we have a better grasp of what the psalmist means when he writes that when God washes us (cleanses us, forgives us) we become whiter than snow. God reaches down and covers up all the grime, the dirt, and yes, even the mess, and brings beauty to the mundane. He takes the familiar and makes it fantastic; the routine of life and makes it radiant, and the everyday - every person - and makes him/her extraordinary. And when the Son spreads His rays across our redeemed lives our lives then shine and glisten and reflect His light for all to see. We are transformed. We are made new. We are cleansed and we become whiter than snow.

So during this upcoming season of Lent, take some time to search your soul. Examine your heart. Then ski to your Savior who is waiting for you. - g.



Youth News



WEEKEND!

Feb. 22-24

Cost: \$45

For all 6th - 12th graders!

We are participating in a community wide D-Now experience with hundreds of students across Rankin County! It's going to be a fantastic weekend of worship, service, study, laughter, friends and fun!

Check out www.collideweekend.com for more info and to sign up! Please don't pay on line!

Deadline to sign up is Feb. 13th!

Worship Band: **Ashes Remain**

Speaker: **Landon Dowden**

Skit Team: **Offhand Remedy**

collideweekend

merge
bringing students and god together

Sundays • 5:00 -7:30 pm
Dinner • Worship • Life Groups
All students grades 6 - 12

February Schedule

3 - Super Bowl Party

10 - Now Showing: "A Walk to Remember"

17 - Now Showing: "17 Again/Brave"

24 - No MERGE (D-Now Weekend)

Super Bowl Party

Sun., Feb. 3

@ Youth Building

5 pm - Game Ends!

Bring tailgate snack to share!

Drinks provided!

RSVP thru 1/30!

5th Block

Wednesday's 3:30-5:00 @ the Hub

FUEL

"High octane for your soul midweek"

Wednesdays

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Dive into God's Word in separate Bible studies for middle school and high school students!



Sandra Thomas

Trendsetters Adults Over 50

WHAT MONTH IS IT – VALENTINES

In early December, a Sunday school teacher asked a Kindergartner, what month it was? The answer was “Christmas.” The class decided the new name for the month of December would be Christmas. Well, if that is the case, then it stands to reason that we could call February, “Valentine’s Month”. With that in mind, on February 20th we will have a special luncheon with “Heart” as our theme. St. Mark’s very own, Teresa Humphrey from the American Heart Association, will share information about the Heart Association, heart health and as an added bonus sing us some songs from the heart. We will be blessed by her wisdom in work and her musical talent. What a joy that will be to share in a covered dish meal, fellowship time and entertainment. Join us in the Christian Life Center at noon – bring a favorite covered dish – meat, soup, salad, dessert, vegetable – your choice – a true covered dish meal. The church will provide tea and water. The cost is \$2.00 per person. Please call the church office to register your attendance.

REMEMBER:

Wednesday, February 20
Trendsetter Lunch



SAVE THE DATE:

November 30th - December 7th
Christmas in Williamsburg
Yorktown and Jamestown
(Details available February 15)

FROM GARY R. CAZIER

Which One ?

On a recent Sunday morning, a young lady came into a church for worship service. She was not greeted by anyone and sat through the entire service without a soul speaking to her, except the minister.

On a recent Monday, an email came into the business office of a church. The message was "We REALLY enjoy(xyz church)! Everyone has been so nice and welcoming. We originally set out to try a few churches around the area, but haven't been to any others because we like (xyz church) so much. I appreciate you reaching out to me and will let you know if I have any questions, etc."

With which of these churches would you prefer to be identified? Does one give a feeling of belonging, of being cherished, of being a church home and the other a feeling of "we don't really care if you are here or not"? Would you believe that both of the above happened at the same church and within two weeks of each other? They did and it was at ST. MARK'S!

Ignoring newcomers is not the norm at St. Mark's, however, sometimes we become so involved in our own circle of friends we miss the opportunity to meet and welcome a new friend. I have asked most of the Sunday School classes to be an extension of the Outreach office and when they see someone new, to speak with them and also to let me know so I can follow up with them. We want everyone who visits St. Mark's to be as welcomed as the folks who sent us the email.

MISSION NEWS

Second
Saturday
Reaching into our communities

Second Saturday Events:

FEBRUARY 9, 2013 – 8:00 a.m.

Mississippi Food Network.

MARCH 9, 2013 – 8:00 a.m.

Keep the Reservoir Beautiful

For both of these events we will meet in the side parking lot of the church. These events are open to people of all ages. Community service hours are available for any student who needs them.

Also, if anyone is interested in planning a Second Saturday event, please let Leslie McGinnis at 601-238-6543 or mcginnis_leslie@hotmail.com